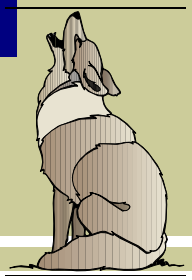
National Weather Service

COYOTE CRIER

Volume 8,Issue 1

Spring/ Summer 2004



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Home Forecast	2
Phone help	2
NAME	3
Climate	3
Spotter training	4

Editor:
Pamela Wollack

What to report:

- Your **spotter number** (located on the label of your coyote crier)
- **What** you have seen
- **Where** you saw it (to your south-east, near the wash, etc.)
- **When** you saw it (if it's not occurring right now)
- What it is doing (movement, getting stronger/ weaker, damaging building, etc.)

New Weather Line Phone System!

By: Pamela Wollack, Intern Meteorologist

As you may or may not be familiar with, the National Weather Service office in Tucson offers a 24 hour weather information telephone line. In the past this information line has played the same broadcast cycle as the NOAA weather radio, causing callers to have to listen to the complete cycle to hear what they are looking for. Well not anymore! Now callers can choose from a menu of options to hear exactly the information that they want. This new and improved phone line offers everything the old one did, plus much more!

When you first call a computer voice comes on and tells you the current time and date. After that the initial menu options are presented, you can either chose one of those menu options and work your way though the different menus until you reach the product that you wish to listen to, or you can enter one of the codes from the help menu (located on page 2). Once you learn the numbers to push for the information you want, the system is fast and easy. However, if you aren't sure what you would like to hear you can wait until after the initial menu is presented and an automatic cycle of information will play. If at any time you would like to stop listening to the current product and hear something else you can press the pound key to take you back to the previous menu.

This is a great phone system which enables you to have access to many products and a lot of information. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please leave a message on the phone system by pressing the star key. While most products are already available though this new information line, additional products will become available down the road. We thank you for your patience while this phone system is being developed.

(520)881-3333

** Below is a list of weather criteria that spotters should use to call in and report. Please feel free to cut them out and post them in a convenient location.

What you should report:

Tornado:	Either on the ground or aloft (a funnel cloud)
Heavy Rain:	A **half an inch or more**, especially if it fell in less than an hour
Hail:	**Pea size** (1/4 inch) or larger
High Wind:	Estimated or measured **50 mph or greater**
Flooding:	**Any** kind of flooding
Snow:	**One inch** or more (2 inches or more if above 5000 ft.)
Visibility:	**Less than one mile** for any reason (fog, dust, snow)
Death/Injury:	**Any** weather-related reason
Damage:	**Any** weather-related reason (most often from wind)
Earthquake:	**Any** tremor

(520) 670-5162 or 1-800-238-3747

Getting a Forecast for Your House

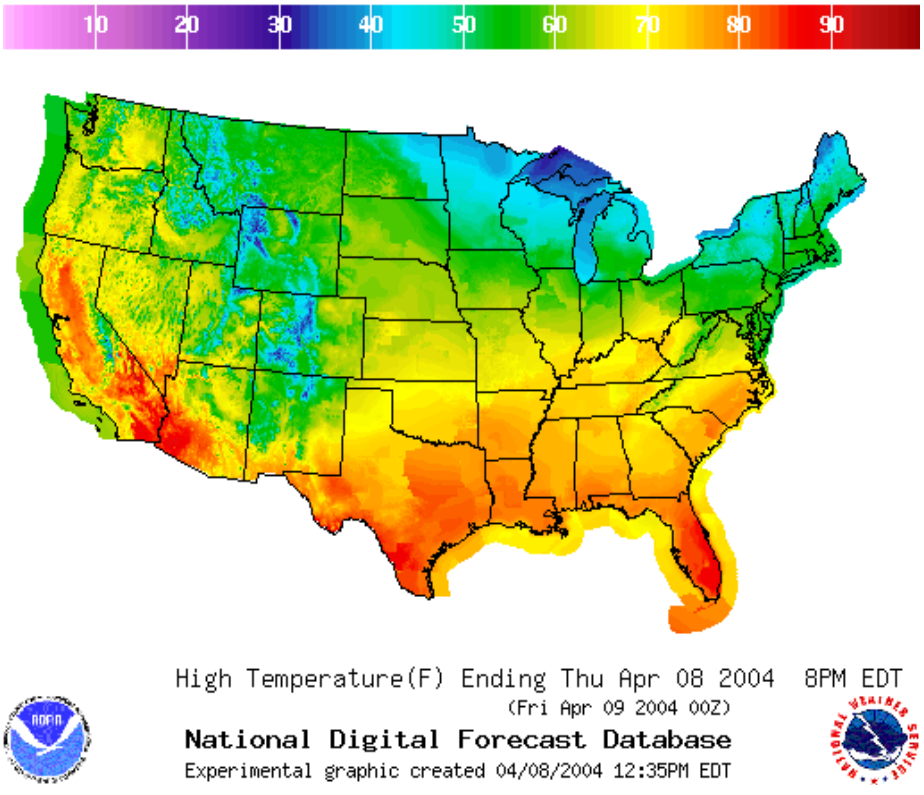
By: Glen Sampson, Meteorologist in Charge

In late 2003, the National Weather Service began making available digital forecasts through the National Digital Forecast Database. Per a previous Coyote Crier article, the NDFD is a collection of 5 km x 5 km weather forecast fields going out through 7 days. Over the past year, the NDFD has continued to mature and grow. All of the forecast fields for the entire United States are now available at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/forecasts/graphical/

This web site contains images for maximum and minimum temperature, chance of precipitation, precipitation amount, weather (e.g., scattered showers), wind, dewpoint and sky cover. These images can be viewed either for the entire continental U.S. or a regional (e.g., the Southwest) or a state. These forecasts are updated a minimum of twice a day from all NWS offices in the Nation. However, many forecast offices like Tucson update these forecasts every 8 hours or less.

All of these images for the Nation or the State of Arizona are nice, but if you want a more detailed forecast for your location check out http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tucson.
Click on the "Prototype Digital Forecasts" on the left side of the screen under the "Forecasts" category. This web page allows you to directly interrogate the digital forecasts for a specific location in southeast Arizona. You can select a city from the drop down menu, or enter the latitude and longitude, or zoom and click on the associated map. Forecasts can either be retrieved in a tabular format or simple text depending on which option you select. The underlying data set on this web page is at a 2.5 km x 2.5 km resolution, which has 4 times the resolution of the data found under the first web site.

As with any new weather forecast technique, the details to ensure a high quality forecast product for all locations are under development. Over the next several years the National Weather Service will continue to refine these techniques and improve this product. Goals are to provide customers with a quantitative evaluation of each forecast point. In the meantime, enjoy a small piece of the future now!



PHONE SYSTEM HELP MENU

Below is a list of some of the most popular menu options that you can chose when you call:

From the main menu press:

11 for a summary of observations
12 for the current Tucson observation
13 for the current Douglas observation
14 for the current Nogales observation
15 for the current Safford observation
21 for the Tucson forecast
22 for the Cochise county forecast
23 for the Santa Cruz county forecast
24 for the Southeast Pinal county forecast
25 for the Upper Gila River Valley, including Graham and southern Greenlee county forecast
26 for the Tohono O'Odham Nation forecast
27 for the western Pima county forecast
28 for the northern Greenlee county forecast
411 for the Tucson daily climate summary
412 for the Douglas daily climate summary
413 for the Nogales daily climate summary
414 for the Safford daily climate summary
42 for the Tucson morning climate
43 for today's highs and low for Tucson
44 for the monthly climate summary
51 for phone numbers of other information sources
52 for internet addresses of other information sources
53 for the help message
54 for this list of menu options

NAME Is Coming to a Monsoon near You

By: Erik Pytlak, Science and Operations Officer

This coming summer, an extensive field research project will be conducted across the desert Southwest and northwest Mexico. The North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME) seeks to answer some of the many questions weather forecasters have about the monsoon circulation pattern which affects our area during the summer months. In some respects, this monsoon circulation is one of the least understood weather phenomena in North America. However, using state-of-the art radars, research aircraft, wind profilers and other observing systems, we hope to learn much more about the inner workings of the monsoon and increase our ability to provide better forecasts hours, days, and maybe even weeks in advance.

Weather forecasters from a dozen weather service offices, four NWS national forecasting centers, and the Mexican weather service (Servicio Meteorólogico Nacional) will rotate through the NWS office in Tucson and provide NAME project scientists with weather guidance from late June through August. The scientists, who will be based at the University of Arizona Department of Atmospheric Sciences, will then take the information and make decisions on where to send research aircraft, portable upper air launch platforms, and other movable instruments.

Now all we need is an active monsoon season.

Southeast Arizona winter season climate recap

By: John Glueck, Lead Meteorologist

The 2003-2004 winter season was cooler than normal across most of southeast Arizona while precipitation, although greater than what was recorded during the 2002-2003 winter season, was still below normal and brought short term relief to the drought that the area has been under since 1998. The top two weather stories of this past winter was the cold snap between Christmas and New Years Day and the very warm March.

On December 28th and 29th, a cold snap hit the area with all of southeast Arizona recorded freezing temperatures with most locations recording lows in the teens and twenties. A few locations recorded single digit lows while a few sky island spots recorded lows that were below zero. In Tucson, the low temperature on the 29th of 19 degrees was the coldest daily low since December 29, 1988 when the mercury hit 20 degrees and marks the first time Tucson recorded a low temperature in the teens since January 17, 1987 when the mercury bottomed out at 19 degrees.

Low Temperatures for selected locations for December 28-29, 2003

Location	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Location	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Location	Dec. 28	Dec. 29
Tucson	20	19	Nogales	10	11	Bowie	18	13
Eloy	18	19	Benson	9	7	Chiricahua N.M.	8	9
Oracle	14	23	Coronado N.M.	9	14	Douglas	11	8
San Manuel	19	18	Sierra Vista	23	18	Safford Ag.	20	15
Picacho Peak	23	23	Tombstone	16	21	Ft. Grant	19	7
Kitt Peak	15	19	Willcox	13	10	Ft. Thomas	11	11
Anvil Ranch	14	16	Pearce-Sunsites	13	12	Duncan	9	5
Organ Pipe N.M	31	27	San Simon	8	9	Hannagan Meadow	-4	-5

March 2004 will go into the record books as one of the warmest, if not the warmest, March on record with readings approaching March 1972. Most locations approached or exceeded their warmest March on record. In Tucson, the average monthly temperature of 66.6 degrees broke the old record of 65 degrees set in 1972.

March 2004 average Temperatures for selected locations versus March records

Location	March 2004	March Ranking	Old/Current Record
Tucson	66.6 F	Warmest	65.0 set in 1972
Ajo	72.4 F	Warmest	71.4 set in 1972
Cascabel	61.8 F	Warmest	61.6 set in 1972
Kitt Peak	53.5 F	2nd warmest	53.6 set in 1972
Nogales	59.0 F	2nd warmest	59.2 set in 1972
Coronado N.M.	56.9 F	3rd warmest	59.7 set in 1972
Oracle	57.4 F	6th warmest	62.9 set in 1972
Bowie	59.7 F	8th warmest	63.0 set in 1910

The Coyote Crier

Spotter News for Southeast Arizona

The National Weather Service
520 N. Park Ave., Suite 304
Tucson, AZ 85719

SKYWARN TRAINING SCHEDULE 2004

Date	Time	Location
May 3rd May 22nd	6:30 pm 1:30 pm	U of A Campus, ENRB Room 253 520 N. Park Ave., Tucson
May 12th	6:30 pm	Santa Cruz County Building Room 120 2150 N. Congress Drive, Nogales
May 4th	6:30 pm	Willcox City Hall, Conference Room 101 S. Railroad Ave., Willcox
May 20th	6:30 pm	Safford General Service Building 921 Thatcher Blvd, Safford
May 25th	6:30 pm	Oscar Yrun Community Center 3020 East Tacoma St., Sierra Vista

Spotter training is an essential component of being an informed spotter. Everyone is welcome. Contact us if you have questions or would like training in your area. See you there! National Weather Service (520) 670-5162